

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 13, 14-16, 17, 18-20, 25-30, 37, 39, 43, 44, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Read, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,623). Claims 9, 21, 31, 45, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Read, et al. in view of Both (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,169). Claims 35, 36, 38, 40-42, 47, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Read, et al. in view of Lundh, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,834).

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 10-12, 22-24, 32-34, 50-52, and 54-56 are directed to allowable subject matter. As such, claims 10, 11, 22, 23, 32, 33, 50, 51, and 54 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Further, claims 8, 9, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25-31, 39, 43-49, 53, 55, and 56 have been canceled. The dependency of claims 2, 13, 14, 16, 18, 35-38, 40, and 41 has been amended accordingly.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 2-7, 10-14, 16, 18, 19, 22-24, 32-38, 40-42, 50-52, and 54) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to telephone John S. Zanghi, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

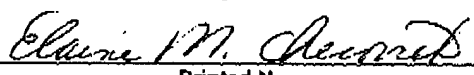
Date

1/11/06
John S. Zanghi
Reg. No. 48,843
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
216-861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☒ transmitted via facsimile in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Express Mail Label No.: | Signature  |
| Date <u>1-11-06</u> | Printed Name Elaine M. Checovich |

N:\LUT\2\2004\2\US\amc0003647V001.doc